Gosikhurd Dam

†417.SHRIMANOHARJOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Centre to recognize the Gosikhurd Dam in Bhandara district in drought affected Vidarbha as a national plan;

if so, the details thereof;

whether the Central Government proposes to recognize it as national plan;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The following criteria has been adopted for selection of National projects;

(i) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.

(ii) Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.

(iii) Intra-state projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Based on the above criteria, 14 projects including Gosikhurd Project have been selected as National Projects.

Sanction of big dam projects

†*418. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

the role of the Central Government in sanctioning big dam projects;

whether Government would take *Suo motu* decision on other places in the light of decision of Madhya Pradesh High Court for providing land to the people affected by these projects;

whether due to lack of constant flow of water, people residing ahead of dams are facing difficulties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) (a) Water resources development projects including the big dam projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the respective State Governments. However, as per the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission *vide* their letter No. 16(12)99-WR dated 30.11.2000, all major

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.